and other places have to pay toll. That seems to be the complaint, which could not be avoided, even if the tollgate is shifted. Thus it can be seen that the location of the toll gate at the spot at which it is now located does not create any hardship.

Lands washed away by the sea erosion.

417. **Mr. George Chakyamuri.**—Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing the following.—

(a) the amount (extent) of land washed away by the encroachment of the sea for the last ten years in the villages of the Cochin State lying to the south of Cochin;

(b) the amount of money spent by the Government for protecting these villages from the erosion of the sea;

(c) the number of petitions and representations the Government has received from the inhabitants of these villages regarding this matter;

(d) the reply or replies, if any, which the Government has given to these petitions and representations?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—(a) The extent of land washed away to the south of Cochin is.—

Rameswaram village	14·18	acres.	....
Pallivirutti	,, 58·14	,,	....
Kumbalangi	,, 67·46	,,	....
Chellanam	,, 25·75	,,	...

(b) No money has been spent by the Government for the purpose. For the reasons the member is referred to the Press Communique, dated 26th May 1921 and published in the Cochin Government Gazette, dated 15th Edavam 1096.

(c) A few petitions were received. Government are not now in a position to give the exact number.

(d) The member is referred to the Press Communique of 26th May 1921, adverted to above. An offer has been made to the petitioners who have lost their lands by erosions to take on assignment equal areas out of the eastern Andikadavu backwaters.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Answer sub-division (b). May I know the main features so that I may understand?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Renga Ayyarr.—I shall let you have a copy of the Press Communique. I cannot speak from

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memory. The question was brought to the notice of Government so early as 1907. A short history of what the Government did is given in the Press Communique. A brief description of the investigations made and the preliminary action taken by the Government is also dealt with in the Press Communique. If you want any further information, I shall enlighten you.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Sub-division (d) refers to the offer of backwater areas for assignment. Was the fact made known to the public ?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—I myself had been to those places, and the fact was notified. Information was also given through the Village Officers.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—I want to know whether the offers made to the public were accepted or not.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—The matter is still under investigation and is pending. The Tahsildar has also been asked to consult the people.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—The offers made have not been accepted, and I suppose they are continuing. When were these offers made ?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—The offers were made at the end of last year, I think. The Village Officers have to make out a list of all those people who have lost their lands by sea erosions so that we may have full details on which to base our further action.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—After all; does the Government wish to help the people there ?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Yes, certainly. We have a liberal scheme for granting loans, etc., and help by the Government on the line indicated will surely ease the situation.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Sub-division (b) May I know whether any protective measures were attempted ?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—I think that the Press Communique gives it, and protective measures were taken last year.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—In Edavanakkad and Ochenturuttu protective measures were taken.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—I suppose nothing was done in places south of Cochin where the conditions prevailing are the same as in the north of Cochin.

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The places most badly affected are Ochenturuttu and Edavanakkad. These were attended to at first. The conditions prevailing in the north and south of Cochin are more or less identical.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Protective measures are being taken in the north of Cochin. There is no sign of that in the south of Cochin. Whether any experiment has been made with reference to the south of Cochin, I want to know.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—I think the Press Communique refers to certain experiments which are being conducted.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Let me know whether any experiments were made by the Government with reference to places south of Cochin.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The experiments are constructing groynes, investigation, etc.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—May I know who is conducting the enquiry?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is being made by the P. W. D. We have been enquiring about this question for a very long time.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—I want to know for how many years the matter was engaging the attention of the Government.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—This has been engaging our attention for the last 20 years.

418. Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Is the Government aware that thousands of families in these villages have been ruined and rendered homeless within living memory by the gradual working of this silent tragedy?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—The statement is not quite correct. The erosion has, of course, spelt disaster among some people living on the coast. Government are now permitting reclamation of selected patches of backwater, and these reclamations are expected to compensate to a certain extent the loss due to erosion.

419. Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Will the Government kindly assign reasons for not taking effective remedial measures till now in such a vital matter as this and, further pleased to state whether it contemplates to take any action in the future, and if so, when?

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